

51           the ratio of said monovalent metal compound to said acrylic acid compound in said  
52    precursor is an amount in the range of from about 0 to about 0.5 moles of said monovalent  
53    metal compound per mole of said acrylic acid compound and the ratio of said divalent metal  
54    compound to said acrylic acid compound in said precursor is an amount in the range of from  
55    about 0.15 to about 0.5 moles of said divalent metal compound per mole of said acrylic acid  
56    compound;

57           said acrylic acid compound is represented by the formula  $\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}-\text{COOH}$  wherein R is  
58    hydrogen or a methyl group;

59           said monovalent metal compound is represented by the general formula  $\text{X}_n\text{M}$  and said  
60    divalent metal compound is represented by the general formula  $\text{YM}_z$  wherein Y is beryllium,  
61    magnesium calcium, strontium, barium or zinc; X is sodium, potassium, lithium, rubidium,  
62    cesium or an ammonia group; M is oxygen, a hydroxide group or a carbonate group; z is 1 or 2,  
63    and n is 1 or 2[.]; and

64           said gel is stable at temperatures up to about 450 degrees Fahrenheit.

#### 65           THE ART REJECTION

66           Claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view  
67    of US 6,297,336 to Shioji.

68           Claims 3-5, 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected claim.

#### 69           DISCUSSION

70           The rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view  
71    of US 6,297,336 to Shioji is traversed in light of the above amendments and for the following  
72    reasons.

73           Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to  
74    include the limitations of canceled claim 3. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to change

75 dependency from canceled claim 3 to claim 2.

76 Claims 9, 10 and 11 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 2, 6, 4, 5, 7, 8,

77 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 remain under consideration.

78 It is submitted that rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 13 are now allowable in view of the  
79 inclusion in claims 1 and 12 of the limitations of canceled claim 3 which has not been rejected.

80 This application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are  
81 requested.

82 Respectfully submitted,

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89 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

90 I hereby certify that the within and foregoing document, together with the attachments  
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